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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 22A

about it at \$55,000. We probably don't have \$55,000. I don't know whether we're going to have what this amendment has either. The courts, at this time, have to hire an interpreter for the deaf if that deaf person is a defendant. It is...it has to be so that this deaf person is not slighted on his or her constitutional rights. And the courts think that \$5,000 can cover their cost statewide for this, and I would ask that the courts be given that money to ensure the constitutionality and the correct interpretation to deaf defendants. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the amendment, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I will support this. It's a fairly modest amount, thank goodness. Thank you, Senator Suttle, \$5,000, and I will say one of the principles we've been using in our committee as we have gone through the deficit requests in the last six weeks or so is to try to do those things that really needed to be done, even though we anticipated cuts would be made. Obviously, there is one that's being proposed for the Supreme Court, but it does help take into account some of the additional responsibilities we add to agencies now and then, and so if this goes in, obviously, we'll take a cut from Supreme Court. At least it makes somewhat of a level playing field that is...it's in response to those additional needs that we sometimes put on them, so in that vein of thought, I would support this A bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate on the amendment? Seeing none, Senator Suttle, you're recognized to close. She waives that opportunity. The question before the body is the adoption of the Suttle amendment. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Suttle's amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The Suttle amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill.